

## SAW BLACKWELL'S DARK CELL HORRORS

Prison Association Officers Tell  
of Victims of Forbidden  
Torture.

## STRANGE TALE BY NEGRO

Man Died of Neglect, He Says,  
While Ex-Inspectors  
Lived in Ease.

Richard M. Hurd, president of the Lawyers' Mortgage Company, 59 Liberty street, and a director of the Prison Association of New York, and O. P. Lewis, general secretary of the Prison Association, can tell of cruelty at the penitentiary on Blackwell's island, so the District Attorney's office was told yesterday.

Mr. Hurd and Mr. Lewis, visiting the island about October 1st, found two men, one stupefied, the other hysterical and sobbing, in dark cells. This was a direct violation of the order of June 25 commanding that dark cells be no longer used.

Mr. Hurd, speaking yesterday as an individual and not as a member of the Prison Association board, denounced conditions at the penitentiary.

"I am convinced that nothing short of a state of terrorism prevails under Warden Hayes," he said.

**Tells of Death From Neglect.**

A negro walked into Assistant District Attorney Du Vigne's office yesterday morning and told of a death from neglect. The victim, he said, was a burglar, Frank Willis, who died last spring. He had a cell on the top tier. He had complaints of illness but no response he told the lawyers. "I'll kill myself. I'll jump from this tier."

This threat finally induced the keepers to move Willis downstairs. He became poorly sick and was rushed to the penitentiary hospital, where he died in a few days.

"The man who told this story also gave the names of four witnesses. They will be examined and the records of the penitentiary will be gone over to verify the story. Commissioner Whitney has offered the District Attorney's office access to every record in his department."

**Ex-Inspectors Sweeney, Murtha and Thompson, who are now in the penitentiary, are having a pleasant time, the negro ex-convict told Mr. Du Vigne. The witness said that he understood that ex-Inspector Hussey had been transferred to Randall's Island.**

**Prison Case for Inspectors.**

Sweeney, Murtha and Thompson always meet their friends in the spacious and comfortable reception room downstairs, he had heard. This room is not unlike a library. It is well furnished and there are magazines.

When the ex-convicts eat they eat with deputy wardens and sit down to a very good table indeed, with napkins and some one to wait on them. It was said, as far as the witness could find out, the three have the run of the prison at night. Sweeney and Thompson would stroll past the cells, talking amiably, and the negro, or he would command a glimpse of Murtha smoking and talking with one of the keepers. Sometimes, the witness thought, there were pleasant little games while away the hours for the ex-convicts.

The District Attorney's office has obtained new information about the nine-month-old girl, Valeria Konchowsky, whose parents are in jail. The girl, aged \$25,000, through an attorney, Henry L. Stobolin of 302 Broadway. The girl's father is Marius Konchowsky.

The baby had measles and was sent to Riverside Hospital, on North Brother Island. The hospital is for tuberculous patients but, said the Health Department yesterday, there are some measles cases here because of the crowded conditions.

The infant arrived at Riverside Hospital on April 24 last.

It was stated that she broke her arm at the hospital and was treated. She was taken out by her parents and died on May 10.

**Powerless, Says Commissioner.**

Commissioner of Correction Whitney said that he was powerless to prevent certain measures of abuse so long as physical conditions in the penitentiary and workhouse were unchanged.

Richard M. Hurd told a \$18 report of the visit to the island early last fall when he and O. P. Lewis found Whitney's order against the use of dark cells being violated.

"We found a young Italian boy huddled on the floor of one cell when the door had been closed," said Mr. Hurd. "He was sobbing in hysteria. We asked him why he had been put there. He said for whispering. Fancy such treatment for such a slight offense!"

"The other fellow in the 'color' was older. When we had roused him somewhat from his stupor and let him see daylight again he blushed and after a while asked, 'Where am I?'"

"We have never been able to get the truth out of prisoners on the island," continued Mr. Hurd. "Once we got a miserable little fellow apart and sufficiently reassured so that he was beginning to dare to answer our questions. Suddenly he began sobbing."

**He Dreaded Dark Cell.**

"I'll get the dark cell for this," he whined. "I can see Warden Hayes over there laughing at me!"

"That's why I say there is a state of perpetual terrorism on the island. I will be glad to tell what I know about conditions there. I know the names of the men we found in dark cells. I don't want them printed because one of them is still on the island, and if his name appeared it is my personal conviction that he would be in bodily danger. I also know the name of the keeper who was responsible for their treatment and I know other names and other instances."

The District Attorney's office will probably hear Mr. Hurd in a few days. Commissioner Whitney did not deny yesterday that Warden Hayes had violated the order not to use dark cells.

Suppressed reports of examiners who went over the book of the penitentiary and workhouse will be presented to the District Attorney in a few days. It is charged that there has been steady grafting in the prison workshops.

**MALTBIE TO HELP VALUE ROADS.**

**Accepts Chairmanship of Railway Commissioners Board.**

Milo R. Maltbie, a member of the Public Service Commission for New York City, is going to have a hand in the Interstate Commerce Commission's work of putting a physical valuation on all the railway properties in the United States.

He has agreed to act as chairman of the executive committee of a committee of the National Association of Railway Commissioners, which has the special job of sitting in at the Interstate Commerce Commission's hearings.

Mr. Maltbie has been asked to become chairman of the executive committee at a meeting of the major committee last week in Washington. He announced his acceptance yesterday.

## HEIGHTS PLAYGROUND OPENED.

New Recreation Centre May Be  
Named for Gaynor.

A new playground which may be named for the late Mayor Gaynor was formally opened yesterday by Mayor Kline. It occupies the western end of the block between 154th and 155th streets on Amsterdam avenue.

The plot is divided into two parts, the middle half being adapted for an athletic field. On the other section there is a one story brick building which has been fitted up for winter use.

Yesterday's exercises were in the open, the mild weather bringing out a large crowd to view the folk dances and games.

Park Commissioner La Roche introduced Mayor Kline and congratulated Washington Heights residents on having the best equipped and most modern recreation center in the city, at a cost of \$50,000.

Mayor Kline said that friends of the late Mayor wanted to have his name connected with this first playground opened since his death. This, the Mayor said, could not be done at present because the Board of Aldermen already had decided that it should be named the Carmansville Playground, to perpetuate the village name of that section of the city.

A change in their decision, he said, would have to come from the Board of Aldermen.

The Mayor strongly urged more playgrounds and said they should be made available for the winter as well as summer.

The exercise by the children consisted of a parade of the children of the various city playgrounds, under the direction of William J. Lee, supervisor of recreation.

The first scene presented Indians and Dutch settlers, with Peter Minuit as leader of the settlers. After that came Gov. Peter Stuyvesant and his period. The raised platform and saluted his Honor the Mayor.

Then there were the Colonial and Revolutionary periods, with fighting, dancing and other scenes. Boys and girls gave the folk dances of Russia, Germany, Ireland and other European countries.

## WHEAT PRODUCTION INCREASE.

International Institute of Agriculture  
Makes Estimates.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—A cablegram from the International Institute of Agriculture, Rome, received today by the United States Department of Agriculture contained the following information:

The total production this year of the staples mentioned in the countries named below, being the principal producing countries of the northern hemisphere, is as follows:

All wheat, 3,569,000,000 bushels, being 8.9 per cent. more than last year; rye, 1,828,000,000 bushels, 1 per cent. decrease; barley, 1,224,000,000 bushels, 7.7 per cent. increase; oats, 4,571,000,000 bushels, 2.3 per cent. increase; corn, 3,041,000,000 bushels, 18 per cent. decrease.

The countries included are Austria, Germany, Belgium, Denmark, Spain, France, Great Britain and Ireland, Hungary, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Poland, Russia in Europe, sixteenth governments, Switzerland, Canada, United States, India, Japan, Russia in Asia (ten governments), Algeria and Tunis.

Total production of sugar beets was 24,952,000 short tons, being 25 per cent. more than last year in the following countries: Belgium, Denmark, Spain, France, Italy, Netherlands, Hungary, Poland, Russia in Europe, sixteenth governments, Switzerland, Canada, United States, India, Japan, Russia in Asia (ten governments), Algeria and Tunis.

Total production of cleaned cotton was 9,206,000,000 pounds, 2.1 per cent. more than last year in the United States, India, Japan and Egypt.

## H. K. Weeks Flights Alimony.

Harvey K. Weeks, who was divorced by Mrs. Anna D. Weeks in the Supreme Court in 1909, died yesterday that he has paid \$24 a month alimony for a wife and son long enough, because Mrs. Weeks is now the wife of Geoffrey Harris, a wealthy manufacturer living at the Hotel Bessert, in Brooklyn, and his son is of age and is himself married.

Weeks filed a petition in court asking that the divorce decree be amended to relieve him of paying further alimony.

**Olso Replacing Butter.**

Figures indicate that oleomargarine grows in popularity as a substitute for butter. During November the output in the Chicago district amounted to 8,829,921 pounds, an increase of 710,339 pounds over the output in November a year ago.

**Corporations in List.**

Five corporations gave \$5,800, none of which was reported. They are:

Swanwick Corp. Corp. Dem. Albany, 1912, 1913, 1914, 1915, 1916, 1917, 1918, 1919, 1920, 1921, 1922, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1926, 1927, 1928, 1929, 1930, 1931, 1932, 1933, 1934, 1935, 1936, 1937, 1938, 1939, 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943, 1944, 1945, 1946, 1947, 1948, 1949, 1950, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 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